

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 3 through 4 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a Divisional Application of U.S. Serial Number 08/679,006, filed July 12, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 6,150,500, the entire teachings of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, lines 10 through 29 and page 16, lines 1 through 2 with the following amended paragraph:

The peptides of the invention include the ENOS regulatory peptide, MSGPYNSSPRPEQHKSYKIRFNSVSCSDPLVSSWRRKRKESSNTD (SEQ ID NO. 1); the NNOS regulatory peptide, MRHPNSVQEERKSYKVRFNSVSSYSDSRKSSGDGPDLRDNFE (SEQ ID NO. 2); the INOS specific peptide (SEQUENCE) (SEQ ID NO. 3); the regulatory region between about amino acids 590-650 of ENOS (SEQ ID NO:30, aa 78-138); the regulatory region between about amino acids 820-880 of NNOS (SEQ ID NO:31, aa 83-143); and the negatively charged loops of INOS (amino acids 568-581 (SEQ ID NO. 4) and 633-647 (SEQ ID NO. 5)); ENOS (amino acids 557-570 (SEQ ID NO. 6) and 666-680 (SEQ ID NO. 7); and NNOS (amino acids 790-803 (SEQ ID NO. 8) and 897-911 (SEQ ID NO. 9). The peptides of the invention additionally include derivatives of the ENOS regulatory peptide, NNOS regulatory peptide, INOS specific peptide, regulatory regions of ENOS and NNOS, and negatively charged loops of INOS, ENOS and NNOS. A "derivative" of a peptide, as described herein, is a peptide which has one or more amino acids deleted or inserted, or has one or more conservative substitutions. A "conservative substitution", as used herein, is the replacement of a first amino acid with a second amino acid that is similar to the first amino acid in charge, polarity, reactivity, and/or structure. Conservative substitutions include amino acid substitutions within the following groupings: S, T, G, A, and P; L, M, I, and V; E, D, Q, and N; R, H, and K; and F, Y, and W. Fragments of these peptides can also serve as agents that modulate NOS activity. A fragment of a peptide that inhibits NOS activity is referred to herein as an "inhibitory fragment;"

a fragment of a peptide that activates NOS activity is referred to herein as an "activating fragment."